

Granuloma Inguinale

Agent: *Klebsiella granulomatis* (bacteria; formerly *Calymmatobacterium granulomatis*)

Mode of Transmission: Presumably by sexual activity; specifically, exposure to the bacteria from an open lesion in the genital area. Young children can become infected by contact with infectious secretions.

Signs/Symptoms: Painless, slowly progressive ulcerative lesions in the genital area, which may become open sores. If left untreated, the bacteria can lead to the destruction of genital organs and spread to other parts of the body through autoinoculation.

Prevention: Sexual partners should be examined, counseled to practice safe sex, and offered antimicrobial therapy if lesions are present.

Although granuloma inguinale is endemic in certain developing tropical countries, it remains uncommon in the United States. No cases of granuloma inguinale were reported in Virginia in 2016. The last reported case occurred in 2001.